

Meridian CDBG PY24 Action Plan Summary

Introduction

The City of Meridian, an Entitlement Community, has received annual funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program since 2007. The City is currently operating under the Five-Year Consolidated Plan (Con Plan) for program years 2022-2026. This plan outlines strategies, goals, and community development needs identified through collaboration with community members and local entities.

This Action Plan covers the third year of the 2022-2026 Con Plan, guiding the City's CDBG Program for Program Year 2024 (PY24), from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025. The PY24 Action Plan summarizes actions, activities, and resources to be utilized during PY24 to address the goals and priority needs identified in the 2022-2026 Con Plan.

Objectives and Outcomes

Meridian's 2022-2026 Con Plan is a strategic plan to meet the housing and community development needs of low and moderate-income and special needs households. The Con Plan serves as:

- A planning document built on a participatory process among citizens, organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders.
- A submission for federal funds under HUD's formula grant program.
- A strategy for carrying out HUD programs.
- A management tool for assessing performance, tracking success, and determining the course of future Con Plans.

Evaluation of Past Performance

At the end of each program year, Meridian provides an annual report to HUD, known as the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER). This report includes:

- Description of available resources.
- Investment of resources.
- Geographic distribution and location of investments.
- Assistance provided to families and persons, including racial and ethnic distribution.
- Actions taken to affirmatively further fair housing.
- Other actions indicated in the Strategic Plan and the Action Plan.

Performance reporting serves to:

1. Provide HUD with the necessary information to assess each grantee's ability to carry out relevant CPD programs in compliance with applicable rules and regulations.
2. Provide information for HUD's Annual Report to Congress.
3. Allow grantees to describe their successes in meeting objectives stipulated in their Con Plan.

Citizen Participation and Consultation Process

Citizen participation actively encourages input from the low and moderate-income population in planning the five-year Con Plan, the Action Plan, Substantial Amendments, and the CAPER. The City seeks broad participation, particularly from low- and moderate-income persons, residents of predominantly low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, minorities, non-English speaking persons, persons with disabilities, public housing residents, local and regional institutions, businesses, developers, and nonprofit organizations.

All public meetings were held in locations convenient to residents, especially potential or actual beneficiaries. Citizen participation was crucial in the needs assessment, market analysis, and construction of the goals and priorities in the Con Plan and the PY24 Action Plan.

Summary of Public Comments

Meridian documents all comments received during the public participation process, including feedback from online surveys. These comments and survey results shaped the specific priorities and goals in the Con Plan and the PY24 Action Plan, ensuring alignment with community needs.

City of Meridian Priority Needs and Goals

The City of Meridian's 2022-2026 Con Plan addresses three primary priority needs.

- **Decent Housing:** The focus on providing decent housing by preserving and increasing affordable housing, supporting housing for special needs groups, and transitioning homeless persons and families into stable housing.
- **Suitable Living Environment:** The City aims to create a suitable living environment by enhancing neighborhood safety and livability, promoting the integration of low to moderate-income (LMI) residents, and reinvesting in deteriorating areas.
- **Economic Opportunities:** The plan seeks to expand economic opportunities by promoting homeownership, supporting community development for long-term viability, and empowering LMI individuals to achieve self-sufficiency.

To meet these needs, the plan identifies the following goals:

- **Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvement:** The plan aims to improve public facilities and infrastructure such as neighborhood facilities and sidewalks.
- **Public Services:** The City will fund various services to help low to moderate income residents maintain their housing stability. Examples of services include emergency rental assistance and childcare scholarships.
- **Housing:** The City will focus on increasing access to safe and affordable housing through activities such as homeownership assistance and homeowner repairs.
- **Program Administration:** This goal will cover administrative costs, fair housing initiatives, and ensure compliance with federal regulations to effectively manage the program.

Proposed Projects for PY24

1. **Emergency Rental Assistance:** Jesse Tree, \$43,698, for rent payment assistance to prevent eviction.
2. **Youth Scholarships:** Boys and Girls Club, \$34,959, for extended care and after-school programs.
3. **Homeowner Repairs:** NeighborWorks Boise, \$160,000, for weatherization, accessibility, and emergency repairs.
4. **LMA Walkability:** Improving sidewalks and lighting in low to moderate-income areas, \$235,221.

Priorities for PY24:

- W 3rd St from Broadway Ave to W Pine Ave and Broadway Ave from W 4th St to W 2nd St
- NW 7th from W Carlton to Cherry
- W Maple from NW 4th to NW 2nd